

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall and members of the Legislature, I don't have strong feelings about this particular item, but I can tell you this that Game and Parks has made plans for this particular money in Niobrara State Park with the development of a trail system up there which I've discussed with Senator Dierks. In any event, if you put it in the Trails Assistance Fund, that means that it will have to go out under a grant system to whoever is applying for the money. And Game and Parks is the one who would decide which project would receive the money. However, you need to understand that if it goes into that fund, as Senator Wickersham is suggesting, that Game and Parks itself could not use this money to improve trails within their own parks. Okay? And this particular piece of money has already been planned, it doesn't necessarily have to go that way. But I would suggest to you that it makes some sense to have a separate fund that Game and Parks can use for trails within their own park systems and also a separate fund for grants to cities and to NRDs and to other political entities which then can be used for trail systems outside of the state park system. So I guess I'm opposing the amendment. But it's, it's kind of a policy decision on where you want the money to go and whether you think it makes some sense to have some money for both purposes. I hope I made that clear. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thanks, Senator Beutler. Any other discussion of the Wickersham amendment? Senator Bromm, your light is on.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Beutler, would you yield to a question please?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler, would you respond please.

SENATOR BROMM: I have a couple questions, Senator Beutler. I tried to follow what I'm sure you told us very clearly. As I read the rest...unless I misunderstood Senator Wickersham's amendment, as I read the rest of the language in, in your amendment, it very clearly says the money in the funds shall be used by the Game and Parks for the purpose of establishing trails and trail related projects and so forth. Now, are you saying that...am I misunderstanding? Does Senator Wickersham take that language out or does this not permit the money to be used in the manner that you described?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I guess Senator Wickersham would have to explain his amendment a little bit more...